

# **Injuries in Missouri**

## **Focus on Profiles**

**State Profiles**

**County Profiles**

# Profile Definitions

**Composite Rank** – the composite rank compares counties to the other counties and is based on the four injury intents (unintentional, assault, self-injury and intent undetermined) and all injuries.

**Indicator/Causes** – injuries presented in the county pages follow the intent-by-mechanism matrix recommended by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The matrix categorizes all injuries by mechanism (poison, firearm, etc.) and four intentions: unintentional, assault, self-injury, and intent undetermined.

Abusive behavior does not fit very well into the intention-mechanism structure. Abuse, like the other intentions, could be categorized by which mechanism was used—striking someone, cutting someone, etc., but the E-codes are not structured that way, and abuse can only be categorized by the types of abusive behavior—spouse abuse, child abuse, etc.

A further complication with the Abuse/Neglect/Rape category is that a record may fall into more than one category of abuse depending on the patient's age and the E-codes and diagnosis codes on the record. Records with multiple codes were categorized according to the following priority: spouse abuse, sexual abuse, rape, shaken baby, physical abuse, and neglect.

Codes for some forms of abuse were not added to the ICD-9-CM manual until the mid 1990's; therefore frequencies for the abuse categories are especially low prior to 1997. Various forms of abuse continue to be underreported.

Please refer to the Focus on Injuries section of this book for a definition of the specific causes.

**Dates** – baseline and current years are used to show trends in the injury rates. For both baseline and current year numbers and rates, three years of data are combined. Reporting three years of information instead of one year stabilizes the rates. In many counties, a specific cause of injury may be rare and result in widely fluctuating data from one year to the next.

**Number** – the actual number of injury events that meet the indicator/cause definition over three years. This actual number is presented for both the baseline years 1994-1996 and the current years 1997-1999.

**State Rate** – Missouri's current rate presented for comparison to county rates.

**Rate** – the rate of events that meet the indicator/cause definition over three years. This rate is presented for both the baseline years 1994-1996 and the current years 1997-1999. All rates are rates per 100,000 population.

**Percent Change** – the percent of change between the baseline rate and the current rate.

**County Trend** – the four injury intents (unintentional, assault, self-injury, and intent undetermined) and all injuries are marked to show if the change between the baseline rate and the current rate reflected improvement. A change for the better is

# Profile Definitions

marked as (✓), a change for the worse is shown as (X). A **(NC)** indicates no change occurred between the baseline and current year rates. An **(\*)** indicates the data for the injury intent was not sufficient to calculate a rate or the trend in the data.

**County Rank** – the county's rank for the four injury intents (unintentional, assault, self-injury and intent undetermined) and all injuries compared to the other counties. A rank of 1 is best and 115 is worst.

**Age Groups Under 15, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64, and 65 and Over** – the number of injury events by age group and gender for the current period 1997-1999.